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Department of State EXCISE INCOMING TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SSO-00 CA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00 AID-07 /088 R

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 7907

E.O. 12065: GDS 10/21/86 (LAWRENCE, LOREN E.) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, PINR, JM
SUBJECT: JAMAICA INTERNAL: AN ELECTION EVE CONVERSATION WITH [redacted]

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. BEGIN SUMMARY. ELECTION MANIFESTOS ARE NOW OUT, THE SPEECHES ARE MOSTLY MADE, BUT THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES VIA MOTORCADES, MUSICAL PERFORMANCES, VIOLENCE AND WHATEVER SECRET PLANNING THERE MAY BE. (SECURITY FORCES MEMBER WILL VOTE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, AS THEY WILL BE ON DUTY ON OCTOBER 30.) [redacted] TOLD US HE IS FAIRLY CONFIDENT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE RELATIVELY FAIR AS FAR AS THE LEVEL OF FRAUD IS CONCERNED BUT WAS APPREHENSIVE OVER THE PROBABILITY FOR INCREASED VIOLENCE BY CUBAN-TRAINED ELEMENTS. HE ALSO GAVE US INDICATIONS [redacted] AND THOUGHTS ON HOW THE US RESPONSE TO THE ELECTION AND ITS RESULTS COULD HELP TO STABILIZE THE SOCIETY (SEPTELS). END SUMMARY.

3. IN A CONVERSATION [redacted] WAS OPTOMISTIC THAT INTHE OCTOBER 30 ELECTIONS, FRAUD WILL BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN ONLY A VERY FEW CONSTITUENCIES IN WHICH, HE SAID, THE PNP IS AHEAD ANYWAY. THE ELECTION LISTS ARE "CLEAN" ALTHOUGH [redacted] NOT ENOUGH VOTERS REGISTERED AND THAT THERE IS PROBABLY SOME DUPLICATION, BUT NOT ENOUGH REALLY TO MATTER. THE JLP HAS HAD THE INK FOR THE INTEGRETY LIGHT SYSTEM TESTED AND IS CONFIDENT OF ITS RELIABILITY. THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT THE SPECIAL INK MAY BE COVERTLY REPLACED WITH WASHABLE INK AND ARE TRYING TO HAVE IT KEPT UNDER SEAL. IN THE END, THE WORKING OF THE INTEGRETY LIGHT SYSTEM WILL DEPEND ON THE PRESIDING OFFICERS AT THE POLLING PLACES.

4. [redacted] AMBIVALENT ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF VIOLENCE. AT ONE POINT HE SAID IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT [redacted] TO ANY APPRECIABLE EXTENT. AT ANOTHER TIME, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE LEVELS OF VIOLENCE, FIVE KILLED IN HIS CONSTITUENCY LAST WEEK, AND ESPECIALLY OVER THE INTENTIONS OF VARIOUS GROUPS OF BRIGADISTAS. HE MENTIONED 250 ORGANIZED, SOME ARMED, AT FALMOUTH IN TRELAWNEY PARISH HAS WELL AS SMALLER "POCKETS" IN SOME OTHER PARISHES. HE WAS EVEN MORE CONCERNED OVER WHAT HE CALLED SMALL GROUPS OF YOUNG MEN FROM A PNP ENCLAVE ALONG MOUNTAIN VIEW ROAD IN KINGSTON WHO HAVE RECEIVED FROM 1 TO 3 WEEKS' TRAINING IN CUBA. HE MENTIONED NO NUMBERS, [redacted] THE JLP IS NOW TRYING TO DETERMINE WHEN A STRIKE MIGHT COME. THEIR LATEST GUESS IS IN THE LAST THREE DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION WHEN, [redacted] MANLEY WOULD BE GOING ROUND THE COUNTRY IN A MOTORCADE. ELECTION DAY, HE ADDED, IS TRADITIONALLY QUIET.

5. REFERRING TO A TYPED PAPER [redacted] THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ELECTION COULD BE TICKLISH. A RETURN OF POLLS MIGHT BE CALLED FOR WHICH WOULD INVOLVE RECOUNTING THE BALLOTS AND COULD TAKE 4-7 DAYS. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNOR GENERAL COULD APPOINT A NEW GOVERNMENT IN CASE OF GRAVE DANGER, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE OUT AND THERE MIGHT NOT BE A GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND THE SECURITY FORCES WOULD BE THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY IN THE LAND.

6. COMMENT: [redacted] CONFIDENT OF RELATIVELY FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS AND OF VICTORY FOR HIS PARTY. HE IS ALSO GREATLY CONCERNED OVER [redacted]

LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GIDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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